

## Message Text

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PAGE 01    MOSCOW 19852 211228Z  
ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 /017 W  
----- 079527 /50 45

R 211046Z DEC 76  
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2300  
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD  
USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS MOSCOW 19852

STATE FOR CU/EE, EUR/SOV

LENINGRAD FOR P&C

USIA FOR IEU

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: OEXC, UR  
SUBJECT: US THEATER DELEGATION TO SELECT SOVIET PLAYS

REF: STATE 300544

1. IN 16 DEC MEETING VASILY STINIKOV, DEPT CHAIRMAN, ALL-  
UNION AGENCY ON AUTHORS' AND COMPOSERS' RIGHTS (VAAP), TOLD  
EMBOFF THAT HE HAD IMAGINED DELEGATION OF US THEATER  
SPECIALISTS TO SU TO VIEW MODERN SOVIET PLAYS AS BEING SAME AS  
GROUP COMING UNDER MINCULT AUSPICES. EMBOFF INFORMED HIM THAT  
WHILE SOME EXCHANGE OF PLAYS MIGHT RESULT FROM MINCULT SPONSORED  
DELEGATION, PURPOSE WAS CULTURAL, NOT COMMERCIAL. SITNIKOV  
SUGGESTED MARKSON OR COIGNEY WRITE HIM SUGGESTING SEPARATE  
DELEGATION OF 4-5 DIRECTORS FOR 7-10 DAYS IN MOSCOW TO VIEW MODERN  
SOVIET PLAYS, SPECIFYING THAT INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL AT  
DIRECTOR'S EXPENSE AND INTERNAL EXPENSES COVERED BY VAAP. HE ALSO  
REQUESTS THAT DIRECTORS BE AUTHORIZED TO SIGN AGREEMENTS WHILE  
IN MOSCOW FOR THOSE PLAYS THEY WISH TO PURCHASE. PRIOR TO VISIT  
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HE SAID SUMMARIES OF CURRENT PLAYS WOULD BE SENT TO ALL  
DELEGATES AND HE, VIA MINCULT, WOULD ARRANGE AFTERNOON AND EVENING  
PERFORMANCES OF ALL PLAYS GROUP WISHED TO SEE. WITH WRITTEN  
REQUEST IN HAND, SITNIKOV PROMISED SPEEDY ANSWER TO QUESTION  
VAAP FUNDING.

2. WHILE SITNIKOV SUGGESTED THAT IF US DELEGATION VISIT SUCCESSFUL, VAAP WOULD CONSIDER SENDING SIMILAR SOVIET DELEGATION TO US TO BUY AMERICAN PLAYS, HIS MAIN CONCERN WITH SALES RATHER THAN PURCHASE. COMMERCIAL NATURE US DEL VISIT SUGGESTS DEPT AND EMB FACILITATE VISIT, BUT NOT CONTRIBUTE TO INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL US DELEGATION (REFTEL PARA 3).

3. SITNIKOV REMARKED THAT IF US DELEGATION CAME IN FEB/MARCH, IT WOULD NOT BE AS IMPORTANT TO HAVE VAAP REPRESENTATIVE AS PART OF MINCULT DELEGATION TO US (REF PARA 2). HE SUGGESTED THIS ISSUE BE PUT ASIDE UNTIL RESOLUTION US DELEGATION TO SU DECIDED.  
MATLOCK

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 21 DEC 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976MOSCOW19852  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ACTION CU  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 STATE 300544  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** buchant0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 18 JUN 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <18 JUN 2004 by chengls>; APPROVED <12 NOV 2004 by buchant0>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** US THEATER DELEGATION TO SELECT SOVIET PLAYS  
**TAGS:** OEXC, UR  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006